

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCCT-02 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY AF/S-SMCDONALD:BK

APPROVED BY AF/S-WPO'NEILL

IO/UNP:MR. REIS (INFO.)

S/PRS:MR. KING (INFO.)

IO/UNP:MR. REIS (INFO.)

EUR/IB:MR. RABENOLD (INFO.)

----- 109068

R 101600Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 097066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, AO, PO

SUBJECT: GENERAL TIRE PRESS RELEASE ON GRAE ALLEGATIONS

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED COPY OF PRESS RELEASE THAT GENERAL TIRE HAS RELEASED IN ANSWERING CHARGES OF SUPPORT TO GRAE. TEXT FOLLOWS: QTE: AKRON, OHIO MAY 9--IN A RELEASE CABLED DIRECTLY TO NEWS WIRE SERVICES IN LISBON, PORTUGAL AND LUANDA, ANGOLA, JOSEPH W. FOSS, PRESIDENT OF GENERAL TIRE INTERNATIONAL, CATEGORICALLY DENIED ACCUSATIONS THAT GENERAL TIRE CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO REVOLUTIONARY AND POLITICAL GROUPS IN ANGOLA. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN LISBON UNCLASSIFIED

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AND LUANDA NEWSPAPERS AND BROADCAST OVER ANGOLA RADIO

STATIONS, ALLEGATIONS THAT GENERAL TIRE PARTICIPATED IN SUCH A CONTRIBUTION WERE MADE. THE CHARGE WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A QUOTE FORMER MINISTER OF THE ANGOLA REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN EXILE UNQUOTE QUOTE THE ALLEGED REMARKS UNQUOTE FOSS SAID IN THE FORMAL STATEMENT QUOTE ARE UNFOUNDED AND TOTALLY UNTRUE, UNQUOTE QUOTE IT HAS BEEN THE LONG-STANDING POLICY OF GENERAL TIRE THAT IT DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY WHERE IT HAS OPERATIONS UNQUOTE FOSS ADDED. IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH MABOR GENERAL, GENERAL TIRE INTERNATIONAL HAS A MINORITY INTEREST IN THREE FACTORIES--MAKING TIRES, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND TEXTILES--IN PORTUGAL AND TIRE PLANT IN LUANDA, ANGOLA. THE JOINT VENTURE HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR SOME TWENTY YEARS IN PORTUGAL AND TEN YEARS IN ANGOLA. A NEW TIRE PLANT IS CURRENTLY UNDER

CONSTRUCTION ON THE SAME JOINT VENTURE BASIS IN MOZAMBIQUE END OF PRESS RELEASE UNQTE.

2. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED AT SAME TIME COPY OF CABLE SENT TO PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. TEXT FOLLOWS: QTE: CABLE TO JUNTA DE SALVACAO NACIONAL, LISBON, PORTUGAL WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR CONSIDERATE ATTENTION TO EXPLAIN A DEVELOPMENT OF DEEP CONCERN TO US, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF OUR MANY YEARS OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IN PORTUGAL, ANGOLA AND MORE RECENTLY IN MOZAMBIQUE. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT YESTERDAYS LISBON AND LUANDA NEWSPAPERS CARRIED AN INTERVIEW FROM AN ALLEGED FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AN ANGOLA REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN EXILE IN WHICH INTERVIEW IT WAS STATED THAT, AMONGST OTHERS, GENERAL HAD PARTICIPATED IN A CONTRIBUTION TO THE AFOREMENTIONED ANGOLA REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. THIS ALLEGATION IS COMPLETELY FALSE AND UNFOUNDED AS GENERALS LONG STANDING CORPORATE POLICY IS NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF WITH POLITICAL MATTERS OR PARTIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO OPERATE. WE ARE SO ADVISING PORTUGUESE AND ANGOLAN PRESS AND ALSO THE DELEGADO DE JUNTA DE SALVACAO NACIONAL IN LUANDA MOST RESPECTFULLY YOURS JOSEPH W. FOSS, PRESIDENT, GENERAL TIRE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, ONE GENERAL STREET, AKRON, OHIO UNCLASSIFIED

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44329, U.S.A. UNQUOTE.

3. ABOVE SENT FYI. THEY HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY GENERAL TIRE AND NOT STATE DEPARTMENT AS CITED BY GENERAL TIRE EMPLOYEE IN LUANDA 299. RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SMCDONALD:BK
Enclosure: n/a
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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